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THIRTEEN CASES OF HEREDITARY TRANSMISSION OF RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA IN TWO GENERATIONS.

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IT must be a rare event in the experience of most ophthalmic surgeons to meet with such a well-marked instance of the hereditary transmission of retinitis pigmentosa as is shown below.

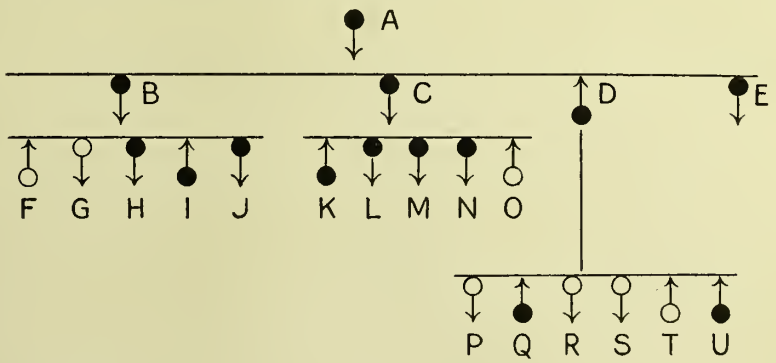
In the history of the cases, as represented by the appended short family tree, ancestral consanguinity, one of the two principal factors in the production of this disease, is excluded. There are no symptoms of syphilis in any form in any of the patients.

The patient who consulted me was B. She complained that for many years she had been unable to see at night, and her vision had gradually failed to such a degree that now she was unable to read even large print by daylight.

Examination by the ophthalmoscope showed typical retinitis pigmentosa, almost entire absence of the retinal vessels, and advanced optic atrophy.

Enquiry revealed the fact that among her ancestors, as far as she knew, the patient's mother was the only one who suffered from night-blindness.

A brother and sister have the disease, and an unmarried sister, who died two years ago, was night-blind. The patient has five children, two boys and three girls: one boy and two girls are night-blind; her married sister has five children, two boys and three girls: one boy and all the girls are night-blind; her married brother has six children, three of each sex: two boys cannot see at night. Of these cases I have examined all except four, *viz.*, the patient's mother and sister and two of the married sister's children. All those examined suffer from retinitis pigmentosa. From the account I received of those I have not examined, I have no hesitation in saying they are, or were, instances of the same affection.



Females affected.

,, unaffected.

Males affected.

,, unaffected.

A and E are dead. These, as well as M and N, were not examined.

As the object of this memorandum is merely to put on record the occurrence of this serious disease in thirteen of twenty descendants in two generations from one ancestor similarly afflicted, no other details are given.